

FROM THE BABYLON OF THE WEST

It would seem that the Pope was too much afraid of these
utter any longer openly to admit Catherine to his
presence ;
communications between them were now, for a while,
confined to
messengers and letters. Once the Pope sent her a
short note,
saying that the cardinals alleged that Pope Clement
IV undertook
nothing without the counsels of the Sacred College,
and always
followed their advice, even if his own opinion
was different.
"Alas, most holy Father," she answered, "these
men quote
Pope Clement IV to you, but they tell you nothing
about Pope
Urban V, who asked their advice about things, when
he was in
doubt whether it was better to do them or not; but
when a
thing was absolutely clear to him, as your going is to
you (about
which you are certain), he took no heed of their
counsel, but
followed his own, and did not care although they
were all against
him. Follow the counsel of those who think of the
honour of
God, the salvation of souls, and the reformation of
Holy Church,
not that of men who only love their own lives,
honours, states,
and pleasures. I beseech your Holiness, in the
name of Christ
crucified, to make haste. Adopt a holy
deception ; let it seem
that you are going to delay for a time, and then do it
swiftly and
suddenly, for, the more quickly it is done, the sooner
will you be
freed from these torments and troubles. Once
before they made
you fall into their snares, when you delayed your
coming, snares
which the demon had spread in order that the loss
and evil should

result which has resulted. You, like a wise man,
 inspired by the
 Holy Spirit, will not fall into them again."¹ Then
 Gregory
 bade Raimondo tell her to pray to God for light to
 see whether
 he would meet with any obstacle. She answered
 that she had
 already prayed, before and after Communion, and
 she saw no
 danger of any kind in the way. " I have prayed,
 and will pray
 our sweet and good Jesus that He may take away all
 servile fear
 from you, and that only holy fear may remain.
 May there be in

¹ Letter 231 (7). A Latin translation of this letter, probably
 what Raimondo actually presented to the Pope, is in the
 Palatine MS. 59 ; but there is not the slightest foundation for
 Augusta Drane's statement (I. p. 378**.) that all the letters
 which Catherine wrote to Gregory at Avignon " are in Latin, not
 Italian.